

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method of providing a printing service to a user according to a result of judgment as to whether or not the user is eligible for the service based on authentication information input from the user, the printing service method comprising the steps of:

asking a ~~predetermined~~ system about the authentication information if the authentication information is for the ~~predetermined~~ system; and

judging whether or not the user is eligible for the service based on affirmation or denial of the authentication information by the ~~predetermined~~ system.

2. (currently amended) A printing service method as defined in Claim 1, the step of asking further comprising the steps of:

receiving a name of the ~~predetermined~~ system at the time of receiving the authentication information; and

specifying the ~~predetermined~~ system based on the name and asking the ~~predetermined~~ system about the authentication information.

3. (currently amended) A printing service method as defined in Claim 1, the step of asking further comprising the steps of:

specifying the ~~predetermined~~ system based on the authentication information and asking the ~~predetermined~~ system about the authentication information.

4. (currently amended) A printing service method as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 3, further comprising the steps of:

generating charge information for the printing service in the case where the user has been judged to be eligible for the service and transferring the information to the ~~predetermined~~ system; and charging the user for the service based on the charge information by using the ~~predetermined~~ system.

5. (currently amended) A printing service system for providing a printing service to a user according to a result of judgment as to whether or not the user is eligible for the printing service based on authentication information input from the user, the printing service system comprising:

authentication means for asking a ~~predetermined~~ first system about the authentication information if the authentication information is for the ~~predetermined~~ first system, and for judging whether or not the user is eligible for the service based on affirmation or denial of the authentication information by the ~~predetermined~~ first system.

6. (currently amended) A printing service system as defined in Claim 5, the authentication means receiving an input of a name of the ~~predetermined~~ first system at the time of receiving the authentication information, specifying the ~~predetermined~~ first

system based on the name of the ~~predetermined~~ first system, and asking the ~~predetermined~~ first system about the authentication information.

7. (currently amended) A printing service system as defined in Claim 5, wherein the authentication means specifies the ~~predetermined~~ first system based on the authentication information and asks the ~~predetermined~~ first system about the authentication information.

8. (currently amended) A printing service system as defined in any one of Claims 5 to 7, the printing service system further comprising fee charging means for generating charge information for the printing service in the case where the user has been judged to be eligible for the service and for transferring the charge information to the ~~predetermined~~ first system, wherein

the ~~predetermined~~ first system charges the user for the service based on the charge information.

9. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute a method of providing a printing service to a user according to a result of judgment as to whether or not the user is eligible for the service based on authentication information input from the user, the program comprising the procedures of:

asking a ~~predetermined~~ system about the authentication information if the authentication information is for the ~~predetermined~~ system; and

judging whether or not the user is eligible for the service based on affirmation or denial of the authentication information by the ~~predetermined~~ system.

10. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 9, the procedure of asking further comprising the procedures of:

receiving a name of the ~~predetermined~~ system at the time of receiving the authentication information; and

specifying the ~~predetermined~~ system based on the name and asking the ~~predetermined~~ system about the authentication information.

11. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 9, the procedure of asking further comprising the procedures of:

specifying the ~~predetermined~~ system based on the authentication information and asking the ~~predetermined~~ system about the authentication information.

12. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in any one of Claims 9 to 11, the program further comprising the procedures of:

generating charge information for the printing service in the case where the user has been judged to be eligible for the service and transferring the charge information to the ~~predetermined~~ system.

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Claim 13 (cancelled).